

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1-4 as follows.

Please ADD new claim 6 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A foil bearing, comprising:

a stationary mount member surrounding an outer circumferential surface of a journal of a rotating member via an annular gap; and

a plurality of centripetal force producing foils arranged in the annular gap so as to oppose a substantially entire part of the outer circumferential surface of the journal; and

a sheet-shaped foil placed between the outer circumferential surface of the journal and the plurality of the centripetal force producing foils and having one end secured to an inner side of the stationary mount member and the other end extending substantially in a cylindrical shape to wrap around the journal,

wherein the stationary mount member is provided with a plurality of circumferentially arranged through-holes at an axially middle portion thereof, and

wherein the centripetal force producing foils comprise members which are axially spaced apart from each other at a position where the through-holes are located whereby when the rotating member rotates, an air supplied through the through-holes of the stationary mount member flows through a space between the

axially spaced-apart members of the centripetal force producing foils to hit against an outer surface of the sheet-shaped foil.

2. (Currently Amended) A foil bearing ~~according to claim 1~~, comprising:
a stationary mount member surrounding an outer circumferential surface of a journal of a rotating member via an annular gap; and
a plurality of centripetal force producing foils arranged in the annular gap so as to oppose a substantially entire part of the outer circumferential surface of the journal,
wherein the stationary mount member is provided with a plurality of circumferentially arranged through-holes at an axially middle portion thereof,
wherein the centripetal force producing foils comprise members which are axially spaced apart from each other at a position where the through-holes are located, and
wherein at least one of the through-holes extends obliquely with respect to a line perpendicular to a circumference of the stationary mount member.

3. (Currently Amended) A foil bearing ~~according to claim 1~~, comprising:
a stationary mount member surrounding an outer circumferential surface of a journal of a rotating member via an annular gap; and
a plurality of centripetal force producing foils arranged in the annular gap so as to oppose a substantially entire part of the outer circumferential surface of the journal,

wherein the stationary mount member is provided with a plurality of circumferentially arranged through-holes at an axially middle portion thereof,

wherein the centripetal force producing foils comprise members which are axially spaced apart from each other at a position where the through-holes are located, and

wherein the through-holes comprise a pair of through-holes extending obliquely with respect to an axis of the stationary mount member and inclined in opposite directions from each other, openings of the pair of through-holes on an inner surface of the stationary mount member being arranged side by side substantially in an axial direction.

4. (Currently Amended) A foil bearing ~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising:
a stationary mount member surrounding an outer circumferential surface of a journal of a rotating member via an annular gap; and

a plurality of centripetal force producing foils arranged in the annular gap so as to oppose a substantially entire part of the outer circumferential surface of the journal,

wherein the stationary mount member is provided with a plurality of circumferentially arranged through-holes at an axially middle portion thereof,

wherein the centripetal force producing foils comprise members which are axially spaced apart from each other at a position where the through-holes are located, and

wherein the through-holes comprise through-holes which are inclined in opposite axial directions and arranged alternately in a circumferential direction.

5. (Original) A foil bearing according to claim 1, wherein a circumferentially extending groove is formed in an inner surface of the stationary mount member at an approximately middle portion thereof.

6. (New) A foil bearing comprising:
a stationary mount member surrounding an outer circumferential surface of a journal of a rotating member via an annular gap; and
a plurality of centripetal force producing foils arranged in the annular gap so as to oppose a substantially entire part of the outer circumferential surface of the journal,
wherein the stationary mount member is provided with a plurality of circumferentially arranged through-holes at an axially middle portion thereof,
wherein the centripetal force producing foils comprise members which are axially spaced apart from each other at a position where the through-holes are located, and
wherein at least a portion of the through-holes extends in a direction that is not normal to the circumference of the stationary mount member.